

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF:TWSEELYE:WLK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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O 161541Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 304769

NODIS
LONDON FOR REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN CONCERNS ABOUT NAMIBIA

REF: GENEVA 9707 (NODIS)

1. REFTTEL DESCRIBES ZAMBIAN CONCERNS OVER COURSE OF
EVENTS IN NAMIBIA AND WITH FACT THAT NUJOMA IS FALLING
INCREASINGLY UNDER SOVIET/CUBAN INFLUENCE AND CONTROL.
ALTHOUGH THESE CONCERNS WERE GIVEN TO WISNER IN GENEVA,
CHONA SPECIFICALLY TOLD WISNER THAT HE "HAD AN URGENT
MESSAGE TO DELIVER." THEREFORE WE ASSUME HE WAS UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE THEM.

2. ALTHOUGH BY THIS INITIATIVE ZAMBIANS WERE, IN PART, NO
DOUBT SEEKING PUT PRESSURE ON US TO SUPPORT THEIR VIEWS AT
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THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE
ZAMBIANS ARE SINCERE ABOUT THEIR CONCERNS OVER THE SOVIET
THREAT.

3. THEREFORE, IN RESPONDING TO KAUNDA'S MESSAGE, AMBASSA-
DOR REINHARDT SHOULD USE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN

HIS MEETING WITH CHONA AND AMBASSADOR LOW SHOULD DO SAME
IN LUSAKA. REFTTEL BEING REPEATED LUSAKA.

A. -- WE WERE VERY MUCH INTERESTED TO RECEIVE THE ZAMBIAN
ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION CONCERNING SWAPO, SPECIFICALLY
THE INCREASING SUSCEPTIBILITY OF NUJOMA TO SOVIET AND
CUBAN INFLUENCE. WE BELIEVE THE ZAMBIAN CONCERNS MAY BE
FULLY JUSTIFIED AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN US AT TIME OF ANGOLAN CRISIS.

B. -- WE HAD HEARD OF A POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET VISIT
TO THE AREA EARLY NEXT YEAR WHICH IS PROBABLY LINKED TO
FUTURE SOVIET PLANNING FOR THE AREA.

C. -- WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE ZAMBIAN ANALYSIS OF THE
SITUATION. IN ADDITION TO KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH
PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON NAMIBIA, WE HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICA-
TION WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE AND THE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES
ABOUT NAMIBIA AND HAVE CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT NUJOMA WOULD
SOON RETURN TO LUSAKA WHERE HE COULD BENEFIT FROM PRESI-
DENT KAUNDA'S COUNSEL. UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAS NOT DONE
SO AND WE ARE BEGINNING TO WONDER IF HE INTENDS TO DO
SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEREFORE, WE WOULD WELCOME ANY
SUGGESTIONS PRESIDENT KAUNDA MIGHT HAVE AS TO ANY STEPS
THE U.S. COULD USEFULLY UNDERTAKE IN THIS SITUATION. IT
MIGHT BE USEFUL IF ZAMBIANS COULD EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH
NIGERIANS WHO SEEM TO HAVE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH NUJOMA.

D. -- AS PRESIDENT KAUNDA KNOWS, WE ATTACH VERY GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO THE SECURITY OF ZAMBIA. THIS IS ONE OF THE
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REASONS THAT WE HOPE THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA WILL USE
ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST LEADERS TO

ACHIEVE SOLUTIONS TO BOTH THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN
PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTS
WHICH WOULD NOT REPRESENT A POTENTIAL THREAT TO ZAMBIA
AND WHICH WOULD REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS OF ANY
SOVIET DESIGN FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, INDEPENDENCE, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, INSTRUCTIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE304769
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWSEELYE:WLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850021-2503
From: STATE AF
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761236/aaaabfbg.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 GENEVA 9707
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAMBIAN CONCERNS ABOUT NAMIBIA
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, PDEV, RH, ZA, XF, UR, CU, (NUJOMA, SAM)
To: LONDON LUSAKA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006